

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00
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DRAFTED BY AF/W:EESVENDSEN:GAR
APPROVED BY AF:RMMOOSE
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LISBON
INFO AMEMBASSY BISSAU
AMEMBASSY PRAIA

UNCLAS STATE 164065

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, US, CV, PU

SUBJECT: U.S. AID TO CAPE VERDE AND GUINEA BISSAU

1. DURING HIS MAY 31 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, PRESIDENT EANES EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN U.S. AID TO CAPE VERDE AND GUINEA-BISSAU. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF OUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN THESE COUNTRIES TO THE GOP FOREIGN MINISTRY.

2. U.S. ASSISTANCE TO CAPE VERDE SINCE ITS INDEPENDENCE IN 1975 HAS TOTALLED \$21.7 MILLION, INCLUDING \$6.1 MILLION IN FOOD UNDER PL-480. THIS AID HAS ALSO INCLUDED COMMITMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF PLANTS FOR THE DESALINIZATION
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OF SEA WATER AND RURAL WORKS PROJECTS DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO ALLEVIATE VERY HIGH RURAL UNEMPLOYMENT. OUR AID PROGRAM IS SHAPED BY THE NEEDS OF THE ISLANDS, WHICH CAN PROVIDE ONLY A VERY SMALL FRACTION OF THEIR FOOD REQUIREMENTS, AND WHICH HAVE SUFFERED FROM DROUGHT IN RECENT YEARS. U.S. ASSISTANCE, LIMITED IN SIZE BY THE ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY OF THE TINY NATION, WILL AIM IN THE IMMEDIATE

FUTURE AT THE PRIORITY AREAS IDENTIFIED BY THE CAPE
VERDEAN GOVERNMENT: AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION AND HEALTH.
PROJECTS WORTH AN ADDITIONAL \$2.1 MILLION HAVE BEEN
PROPOSED FOR FY 79.

3. SINCE GUINEA-BISSAU BECAME INDEPENDENT IN 1974,
U.S. AID HAS AMOUNTED TO \$10.7 MILLION, INCLUDING \$6.2
MILLION IN FOOD UNDER PL-480. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE HAS
CONCENTRATED ON INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION AND HELPING
ALLEVIATE THE COUNTRY'S SHORTAGE OF TRAINED PEOPLE,
ESPECIALLY TEACHERS. THESE GOALS ARE IN LINE WITH THE
PRIORITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUINEA-BISSAU, AND U.S.
AID PROGRAMS WILL CONTINUE TO BE FOCUSED IN THESE AREAS
IN THE NEAR FUTURE. A TOTAL OF \$1.8 MILLION HAS BEEN
PROPOSED FOR FY 79.

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